

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, November 26, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. Nov. 26th 1893. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Thank you ever so much for your telegram which reached me yesterday, and made me glad with the knowledge that you were all thinking of us in our far away home. It's a lovely home, and I am waiting impatiently to show it to you all. The four guest chambers stand empty waiting for our dear friends to occupy them.

I hope to get some photographs to bring home to you. The carpenters had some taken but they are perfect libels upon the place. The only drawback to the perfection of the house is that the great chimney won't draw. The architect says it's because of this, that and everything except the construction of the chimney itself, but we have sent for the humble little countrymen who built the big chimney at the lodge which doesn't burn, and are going to see what he has to say. Wouldn't it be a joke if he could make the chimney draw when the great Boston architect couldn't?

Alec is very much pleased because the house has cost us very little more than the contract price, and most of this "very little" was for Daisy's shells.

Alec is going to read Dickens "Christmas Carols" this week in town for the benefit of the Presbyterian Minister's house.

It is partly snowing and the suns partly shining, a most uncertain day, but the silvery light on the water is lovely. I did not know that there was ever so much surf here as I saw beating on the 2 rocks yesterday. It was really magnificent, but Alec does not think our new path much to boast of yet, so I am going to try and see if he won't come with me and

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chop down some more bushes. I am very anxious to try the new axe that was one of my birthday presents from Alec.

Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Kennan are going prospecting for more caribou early tomorrow and Mr. McCurdy went home last night so Alec and I are left to our own society. As Alec has been sleeping so far this morning I haven't had a chance to get tired of his, and mine is very good, occasionally. I don't think I have ever before been quite alone at home with Alec since Elsie was born.

Please give Mr. Bell and my cousins my love. I hope to see you all before very long.

Affectionately your daughter, Mabel.